

minutes



Meeting STREET LIGHTING SELECT COMMITTEE

Date Monday, 22 October 2007 (commencing at 10.30 am)

Membership

Persons absent are marked with 'A'

COUNCILLORS

John Knight (Chair)
Andy Stewart (Vice-Chair)

	Jen Cole		Ken Rigby
	Vince Dobson	A	David Shaw
	Jim Napier	A	Kevan Wakefield
A	Philip Owen		

IN ATTENDANCE

Paul Henshaw

MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting held on 17 September 2007, having been circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Owen.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

There were no declarations of interest.

ENERGY PROCUREMENT AND CARBON MANAGEMENT

Alan Allsopp, Principal Officer, Energy Management introduced the report on the authority's procurement of electricity, and carbon management in relation to street lighting. He stressed that purchasing at the right time was critical to obtaining the best price. The County Council took advice from a specialist energy purchaser, and was constantly looking ahead for the best contracts. Street lighting contributed 16% of the council's carbon dioxide emissions. The council had sought to mitigate this by using electricity from renewable sources or combined heat and power.

In reply to Councillor Stewart, Mr Allsopp stated that the procurement consultant's fee was negligible in relation to street lighting. He pointed out that the price of green

energy had increased with demand. Councillor Napier wondered how the council compared with other authorities. Mr Allsopp replied that such comparisons were difficult, since so much depended in the timing of contracts. He drew attention to the Three Counties Purchasing Organisation and Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation as possible lines of procurement. However, the market was such that a larger contract did not necessarily secure a better price. Councillor Knight commented that the procurement processes seemed satisfactory, but improved benchmarking, possibly through the Regional Centre for Excellence, might be recommended.

ACCIDENT IMPLICATIONS OF PART-NIGHT LIGHTING

Suzanne Heydon, Team Manager, Accident Investigation, introduced the report on the implications for road safety of lighting roads for only part of the night. She explained that this was under consideration by a number of authorities, who shared concerns that accidents might increase. She listed Essex County Council's criteria for locations where reduced lighting would not be considered, and drew attention to the implications for accident reduction targets, speed limits, legal challenges and installation costs.

Inspector Dean Brown, Nottinghamshire Police, pointed out that lighting was often used to reduce crime levels. He went on to indicate that reducing lighting might increase the perceived as well as the actual levels of crime.

Councillor Napier wondered if other authorities had been extravagant in their provision of street lighting, given that they were now considering reducing it. In reply to Councillor Cole, Ms Heydon explained how her team looked at accident statistics to assess whether lighting was a likely factor in accidents at a particular location.

In reply to Councillor Rigby, David Beniston, Lighting and Signals Manager said that more efficient bulbs and control mechanisms were becoming available, although there was concern about their reliability. Insp Brown referred to the need to light alleyways in new housing developments. If part-night lighting was under consideration, he recommended discussion with Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships, rather than the Police. Ms Heydon pointed out that government requirements for lighting signs and bollards had changed over time, and there might be scope for the council to look at its practice in relation to this.

WORK PROGRAMME

Business for subsequent meetings was as follows:

26 November: Essex County Council to report on the part-night lighting pilot

10 December: Institute of Lighting Engineers, and consideration of draft final report

The meeting closed at 11.30 am.

CHAIR